

Name _____

Blimps

Fluency: Read with Purpose and Understanding Practice

If you choose this fluency passage, print this page. Read the passage silently to yourself. Then practice reading the passage aloud. When you are ready, read the passage aloud to a partner. Focus on reading with purpose and understanding by asking yourself the following questions:

- What is the topic of the selection?
- What is the purpose of the selection?
- How will the topic and purpose influence the way I read?

Blimps

It is a beautiful day at the football stadium. Fans fill the seats and wait for the kickoff. Suddenly, a strange shadow appears on the field. People sitting in the upper rows hear a low whirring sound overhead. Floating in the sky is a football-shaped balloon.

Most of us have seen them on television during sporting events. They are like silent ships sailing on a sea of sky. These strange-looking balloons are called blimps. They are cousins to the hot-air balloon.

Blimps and hot-air balloons are part of a group of flying machines known as lighter-than-air craft. They are filled with gas that weighs less than air.

Blimps are also members of the airship family. Just like boats, airships have motors and rudders. The motors give airships speed. The rudders help steer. These additions make airships very different from hot-air balloons. Hot-air balloons have little control over their speed or direction. Airships can even fly against the wind. So now when you see a blimp in the sky, you know how they work.